

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic image-capturing apparatus ~~according to claim 1, further~~ comprising:

an image-capturing element that captures an image of a subject and generates electronic image information;

a recording device that records the electronic image information that has been generated in a recording medium;

a registration device that registers inherent information with respect to a registrant;

an information detection device that detects inherent information with respect to a user of the electronic image-capturing apparatus;

an information verification device that references the inherent information with respect to the user detected by the information detection device with the inherent information registered in the registration device;

a control device that allows an image-capturing operation to be performed on the electronic image-capturing apparatus if it is decided by the information verification device that the two sets of inherent information match; and

a digital watermarking device that adds information related to the inherent information detected by said information detection device to the electronic image information that has been generated as a digital watermark.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic image-capturing apparatus ~~according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

an image-capturing element that captures an image of a subject and generates electronic image information;

a recording device that records the electronic image information that has been generated in a recording medium;

a registration device that registers inherent information with respect to a registrant;

an information detection device that detects inherent information with respect to a user of the electronic image-capturing apparatus;

an information verification device that references the inherent information with respect to the user detected by the information detection device with the inherent information registered in the registration device;

a control device that allows an image-capturing operation to be performed on the electronic image-capturing apparatus if it is decided by the information verification device that the two sets of inherent information match; and

a power control device having a switch to be set at a recording position, a reproduction position or an OFF position, that controls power ON/OFF, wherein:

said control device allows an image-capturing operation to be performed on the electronic image-capturing apparatus without requiring said information verification device to operate ~~as long as~~ when said switch remains at said recording position after said information verification device decides that the two sets of inherent information match when said switch is at said recording position.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein:

the inherent information is a registrant's fingerprint information; and
said information detection device includes ~~is constituted of~~ a sensor that detects fingerprint information.

7. (Original) An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a grip used by the user to hold the electronic image-capturing apparatus while capturing an image of a subject, wherein

91
said sensor is provided at a position at which a finger of the user is naturally placed when the user holds said grip.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to claim ~~8~~2, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~said a~~ registration control device that prohibits updating of contents of information registered in said registration device if it is decided that there is ~~at least one set of~~ inherent information registered in said registration device ~~as long as~~ when said information verification device does not decide that two sets of inherent information match.

10. (Currently Amended) An electronic image-capturing apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, ~~wherein~~ comprising:

an image-capturing element that captures an image of a subject and generates electronic image information;

a recording device that records the electronic image information that has been generated in a recording medium;

_____ a registration device that registers inherent information with respect to a
registrant;

_____ an information detection device that detects inherent information with respect
to a user of the electronic image-capturing apparatus;

_____ an information verification device that references the inherent information
with respect to the user detected by the information detection device with the inherent
information registered in said registration device;

_____ a control device that allows an image-capturing operation to be performed on
the electronic image-capturing apparatus if it is decided by said information verification
device that the two sets of inherent information match; and

wherein said control device allows a reproduction operation regardless of
results of verification performed by said information verification device when the electronic
image information recorded in said recording medium is reproduced.
